

Monthly Update – November 2014

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

OVERVIEW

USAID-TAPP is increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, improving nutrition, and expanding markets through agricultural innovation and commercialization. The program is part of Feed the Future, the US government's global hunger and food security initiative to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the developing world. Feed the Future is focusing on the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT), a region the Tanzanian government has identified as the most conducive for agricultural growth. Working with our partners and the Government of Tanzania, USAID-TAPP is concentrating efforts on selected crops and regions to help transform the country's food security.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER LAUNCHES KATI PTC

Dr. Sira Ubwa Mamboya, Minister of Agriculture and Mineral Resources, launched the Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute (KATI) Practical Training Center (PTC) during the KATI graduation ceremony on November 3rd, 2014. The opening of the PTC was also attended by Mary Hobbs, USAID/Tanzania's Director at the Office of Economic Growth.

The KATI PTC will be serving students pursuing agronomy studies to boost horticulture specialization. With the support from USAID-TAPP and its partners, the PTC will provide intensive practical lessons and trainings on horticulture in Unguja, Zanzibar. The PTC has been supporting students and neighboring smallholder farmers in trainings on good agricultural practices and integrated pest management.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
Zanzibar Agriculture and Natural Resources minister Dr. Sira Ubwa Mamboya (in pink veil) listening to USAID-TAPP agronomist Omar Mohammed at the launch of the KATI PTC in Unguja Zanzibar.

During the launch, the minister and her delegation were able to see the efforts of USAID-TAPP agronomist Omar Mohammed and KATI lecturers in healthy sweet pepper (0.3 acres), high density banana (0.25 acres), pawpaw (0.25 acres), onion (0.6 acres), and watermelon (0.25 acres) crops.

The visitors saw the different agricultural technologies adopted on the PTC such as raised beds, use of hybrid seeds, drip irrigation, live barriers, and trellising. "Students and farmers should embrace the opportunity of learning about these technologies. Students will become better professionals and smallholder farmers will become more profitable. Agriculture is the main source of income in the country and we need to learn how to boost production." said Dr. Sira.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony after the demo plot tour, Hobbs said that USAID supports KATI's newly-launched PTC that will serve as a permanent site for students, lecturers, smallholder farmers, and others to learn about and apply a wide range of cutting-edge agricultural practices and technologies.

"Our support starts with agronomic guidance, inputs, and infrastructure from our horticulture project, the Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program. Long-term sustainability is driven by the Tanzania Horticulture

Association as they manage valuable relationship-building with suppliers of agricultural inputs and infrastructure from the private sector,” said Hobbs.

KATI FIELD DAY ATTRACTS 150 FARMERS

On November 20th, 150 farmers and students from KATI attended a field day at the KATI PTC in Unguja, Zanzibar. The event was honored with the presence of Abdallah Mwinyi, the West Regional Commissioner of Unguja.

The PTC provided training in a wide range of crops and production practices being demonstrated on site. The techniques and practices demonstrated use of hybrid seeds, live barriers, and drip irrigation for increasing crop yields and boosting income. During the field day, attendees learned about the importance of protecting their crops from pests by using the integrated pest management practices for increased harvests.

“Here in Zanzibar, we have so much talk of unemployment. But what we should be talking about is self-employment, where your success is what you make of your opportunities. As students of agriculture, you should know that there is opportunity on every farm in Zanzibar so go put your skills to work,” said Mwinyi as he was addressing the students.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
West region commissioner Abdallah Mwinyi receives details from USAID-TAPP's Omar Mohamed about high density banana production at the KATI PTC in Unguja, Zanzibar.

The regional commissioner urged the farmers to treat agriculture as a business to reduce poverty and increase incomes. There is high demand of horticulture in Zanzibar. The farmers learned about the cost of production for crops and how this upfront expense can be met in just one season with the added income.

Farmers were trained on the use of drip irrigation systems and how the equipment saves water and time in irrigation. This encouraged them to increase their savings in order to purchase the drip kit for their plots and discontinue the dependence on rainfall.

The Zanzibar Agricultural Investment and Development Inc (ZAIDI), is a USAID-TAPP partner who sells healthy seedlings, hybrid seeds, and other agro inputs. The company, which provides its services in Unguja and Pemba, showcased their range of products to the farmers at the field day. The farmers who came prepared purchased a number of agro inputs to

adopt the technology demonstrated at the PTC.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

“Increased food security through enhanced productivity”

USAID-TAPP is a five-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification, and improved market access. Visit www.tanzania-agric.org for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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